

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 271

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2298

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, WB

SUBJECT: SENAT REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ISSUE FIREARMS

REFS: A. BONN 19315

B. USBERLIN 2271

C. USBERLIN 2280

1. GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ DISCUSSED PENDING SENAT REQUEST TO ARM CERTAIN JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS AT SOME LENGTH WITH ALLIED COMMANDANTS AND MINISTERS (US POLAD) DECEMBER 16. SCHUETZ SAID THAT FROM HIS STANDPOINT CRUICAL ISSUE WAS TO PERSUADE JUDGES TO CONTINUE TO DO THEIR JOB. HE DID NOT WANT TO HAVE SITUATION ON HANDS WHERE JUDGES SAID THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE ALLIES WOULD NOT PERMIT THEM TO CARRY FIREARMS AS THEIR COUNTERPARTS WERE ALLOWED TO IN FRG LAENDER. SCHUETZ SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT IF VOTE WERE TAKEN IN SENAT, MAJORITY WOULD OPPOSE SENATOR KORBER'S PROPOSAL: SCHUETZ HIMSELF WAS PERSONALLY UNSYMPATHETIC--"IT WOULD NEVER OCCUR TO ME TO CARRY A PISTOL"-- AS WAS MAYOR NEUBAUER, AND BOTH WERE AWARE THAT POLICE PRESIDENT DID NOT LIKE CONFIDENTIAL

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IDEA. NEVERTHELESS, HE FELT COMPELLED TO ADVANCE

KORBER'S REQUEST, INASMUCH AS KORBER WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR JUDGES.

2. FRENCH MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT HIS MISSION
(IN CHAIR) WAS APPROACHED BY JEWELERS ASSOCIATION OVER
WEEKEND WHEN ARTICLE ON ARMING OF JUDGES APPEARED IN
PRESS (REF C), THUS DEMONSTRATING PROBLEM FACED BY
ALLIES, I.E., IF PERMISSION TO CARRY ARMS WERE GRANTED
TO JUDGES IT WOULD BE ENTERING WEDGE FOR REQUESTS
BY OTHERS SUCH AS JEWELERS, TAXI DRIVERS, MEMBERS OF
CONSULATES, ETC. GOVERNING MAYOR SAID HE UNDERSTOOD
ALLIED VIEW AND WAS ALSO AWARE THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY
NOT HAVE MATTERED WHETHER OR NOT DRENKMANN HAD BEEN
ARMED, BUT HE WAS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT AFTER
DRENKMANN MURDER, MOST JUDGES WANTED TO CARRY ARMS.
PERHAPS SITUATION WAS QUIETING DOWN, BUT WHEN SCHUETZ
WAS IN STUTTGART TWO WEEKS AGO HE WAS TOLD THAT
JUDGES THERE WERE TRYING TO AVOID TAKING ON CASES THAT
MIGHT EXPOSE THEM TO RISKS. SCHUETZ SAID HE WAS
ANNOYED WITH ARTICLE IN PAPER AND AGREED IT MIGHT BE
WISE FOR ALLIES TO TALK SOME MORE WITH SENAT ABOUT
ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF INSTILLING CONFIDENCE IN JUDGES.
HOWEVER, SCHUETZ NOTED THAT SHOULD ANOTHER JUDGE BE
KILLED, HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE ALLIES WOULD BE FREE
OF CRITICISM.

3. ALLIES INTERPRETED SCHUETZ'S REMARKS INDICATING HE
WOULD UNDERSTAND IF ALLIES RESPONDED NEGATIVELY AND
WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IF DISCUSSION WERE STRUNG OUT
SOME MORE, BUT THAT AT SAME TIME ALLIES WOULD HAVE TO
BE PREPARED FOR CRITICISM IN EVENT OF FURTHER INCIDENT.
IN OUR VIEW, THIS ARGUES ALL THE MORE FOR PURSUING
SCENARIO REF A. WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO EXTRACT FROM
POLICE CLEAR RECOMMENDATION TO TURN DOWN SENAT REQUEST
BUT WE WILL ATTEMPT IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN POLICE AND
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISERS TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL AMMUNITION
IN FORM OF POLICE PLANS FOR PROTECTING OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO
SOFTEN IMPACT OF ALLIED ANSWER WHEN DELIVERED.SELIGMANN

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